

-- REMARKS --

Claims 1-20 have been cancelled obviating all rejections and objections. In addition, claim 21 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner, in a nonstatutory amendment, obviating the objection. The objection to claim 23 is traversed, as claim 23 was previously amended to depend from claim 21, rather than cancelled claim 22. Withdrawal of the objections to claims 21 and 23 is requested.

The solely remaining claims have been previously noted to be allowable by the Examiner, and prompt passage to allowance is requested.

Applicants have amended claims 21 and 23 and cancelled claims 1-20, 22, and 25-30 from further consideration in this application. Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully submit that claims 21, 23, and 24 fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§102, 103 and 112. In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,
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